

California's Tax Revolt: What's In It For Working People?___6-7

Workers' Power

THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS ISSUE #257 JUNE 3, 1978 25c

Too Inflationary To Aid Brown Lung Victims, Says Carter

by Sandy Boyer

The Carter Administration could act tomorrow to stop textile mill workers from dying of Brown Lung disease.

But it won't.

Brown Lung, or byssinosis, leads to chronic coughing, reduced breathing capacity, total disability, and finally death. It is caused by breathing cotton dust in the textile mills.

OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) has prepared regulations to force the textile mills to clean up the cotton dust. They had promised a federal judge they would publish the regulations on May 31.

But the Carter Administration has postponed action because stopping Brown Lung might have "an inflationary impact." Now it seems that Carter himself will make the final decision.

Key figures in the Administration including George Schultz, the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, and Robert Strauss, the head of Carter's anti-inflation program, apparently want the regulations watered down.

CALCULATIONS

The big textile companies claim they can't afford to stop Brown Lung. They say it would cost \$400,000 for each case of Brown Lung prevented. The fact that workers would never again have to die of Brown Lung doesn't seem to enter their calculations.

The victims of Brown Lung feel differently. They have organized the Carolina Brown Lung Association with 2500 members, to fight for an end to Brown Lung and for compensation for those already disabled by it.

The Brown Lung Association

says there are already 15,000-20,000 people disabled by Brown Lung, and that up to 200,000 people working in the mills today will get it.

Many Brown Lung victims are spending \$150-\$200 a month for medical expenses. Almost none have ever received any pension from the textile companies.

Beatrice Norton, a leader of the Association who worked in the mills for 32 years, wasn't surprised when the companies said they couldn't spend the money to save lives.

"They put costs on the machines, why wouldn't they put a cost on labor? They don't think as much of a person as they do that machine."

RUNAROUND

Linnie Mae Bass, another Brown Lung Association leader, went to

"The dust problem where I work is terrible. Workin' at the pace we have to work, I get lint and cotton in my throat and mouth.

I spit up wads of cotton half as big as my thumb.

And this is not once a day, but it's every hour. Sometimes every 30 or 40 minutes.'

LUNDEE CANNON



From a publication of The National Citizens Committee for Justice for J.P. Stevens Workers

Washington last week to try to get the OSHA regulations enacted. All she got was a five-minute interview with an assistant to the head of OSHA, who wouldn't tell her anything.

Linnie Mae Bass was so badly disabled by Brown Lung that she had to quit work at the age of 48. She says, "The doctor says there isn't another thing wrong with me except Brown Lung—and that's enough to kill me."

After her trip to Washington, she is convinced that "The Government is more interested in money than they are in saving human lives or helping human lives. If they had to breathe like we do—or try to breathe, because sometimes you can't even talk—they'd change their minds."

She says, "We would have liked to stay in Washington to knock on every door to get this thing

through. But we had to come home because we ran out of money."

"I don't know who the textile companies have got in the White House but no doubt they've got a pull with somebody."

"They have the money and people like me are paying for it—or I was paying for it when I worked in the mill. The people in the mill are paying for the mill companies to lobby against them."

WON'T QUIT

The people in the Brown Lung Association are going to go on fighting—until they get rid of the cotton dust that's killing textile workers—until they win decent compensation for the people who are already disabled.

Beatrice Norton feels textile workers need something else too—a union. "It would help if they got

the union in. With a union they band together and stick together and that's what it's going to take to get anything done."

Needless to say the textile companies are fighting the union just as hard as they're fighting regulations to end Brown Lung. □

WORKERS' POWER SUMMER SCHEDULE

Workers' Power will publish bi-weekly during the summer months of June, July and August. Our next issue will be dated June 17. We wish all of our readers an enjoyable summer. Remember: if you are changing your address during the summer, notify us of your address change three weeks in advance. The Post Office will not forward newspapers.

How my neighbor died - and what killed him

by Yvonne Williams,
with Paul Broz

My neighbor died last week. He was 43 and had eight children. He died when the valves in his heart closed up because of tension.

He died at work. Punched in at 3:30 and died at 5:00. He would have been 44 in September.

He worked at a small steel distributor, making about \$7 an hour, but he couldn't work a full week because of all his problems at home.

His oldest daughter is in a mental institution, as is his wife, who's been in for 11 years.

They had nothing. They get a

little subsidy from welfare. He hired a housekeeper, Beth (not her real name), 11 years ago. He needed her because he had eight small children and his wife was in the institution.

So social services picked up a small portion of what Beth was supposed to earn for eight kids, and he had to pay her the rest.

Right before he died he got a raise of 15c an hour which pushed his income up enough that they couldn't get her subsidy anymore.

Even though he wasn't able to work all the time, they figured his income on the basis of a 40-hour week. His last check was only for 15 hours.

TIME AT HOME

He had wanted to go on days, so he could have more time with the kids, but he couldn't because welfare wouldn't pay for Beth because he would have been home evenings. So he was forced to stay on afternoons and didn't get much time with his kids.

When they buried him, he didn't have a suit, couldn't afford one. Everything he got was from the Salvation Army. His brother said they should buy him a second-hand suit, but Beth didn't have the money even for that.

So they buried him in his army uniform. They didn't have the right shirt for it, so they bought a used white shirt. He didn't have a tie, so he wasn't buried in a tie. A white shirt, and his army jacket.

They needed \$300 cash on the barrelhead to dig a hole for this man. The cheapest funeral they could find was \$2300. Cremation would have been \$350, but he didn't want that.

They got his discharge papers, which they were told would cover one-third of the cost. His brother loaned them the rest until his insurance money comes through.

LEGAL HASSLES

He was a real mild-mannered man, but he was on medication, because he had had a nervous breakdown. Trying to raise his kids in that sort of circumstances you can understand why.

Beth and he had been living together almost like husband and

wife for 11 years. When he died it hit her all of a sudden. "Oh, my God, I'm not even a guardian for the kids."

They've got no emergency money from welfare. She is here with the kids, and has to feed them, clothe them, and raise them the best she can, and nobody's really willing to give her a hand.

She can't get money from his checking account. Even her welfare check requires his signature. He just bought a used car and couch on time, and now they can't be put in her name, and are probably going to be repossessed.

He had no idea that he was going to die. He didn't have a will. No one knows who his insurance money is going to be paid to.

He had medical coverage which he didn't understand. He wasn't a real well-educated man and no one ever went over his policy with him. He had coverage for prescriptions and doctors' visits. Much of the money he made was going for doctors' bills. Like a psychologist for his daughter.

WHAT SHOULD BE

I think that in a socialist society things wouldn't have to be this way. In a socialist society his wife would have gotten the care that she needed. The reason she didn't get help early, before she went insane, was because they had a lot of kids and didn't have any money.

In a socialist society you wouldn't have to worry about money. You could get help if you needed it. I think that their family would be all together and he wouldn't be dead.

There'd be no hassles with food or clothes or guardianship or money. That car would be theirs. The couch would be theirs.

Money talks. Money made the difference in this family and in a lot of other families. There's a lot of situations like this.



Last week, 1000 demonstrated in Pittsburgh for gay rights (above). In other parts of the country, right wing anti-gay crusaders threaten what few rights gays have won.

Can Human Rights Be Voted Away?

The right wing anti-gay rights crusaders have decided it's not enough to just repeal gay civil rights laws.

On May 23 they won repeal of a gay rights law in Eugene, Oregon, as they have recently done in Dade County, Florida and in Wichita, Kansas.

Now they want all gay people in the California school system fired.

They are organizing to put an initiative on the November ballot in California to force the state to fire all openly gay teachers, teachers' aides, counselors and school administrators and to prevent any gay

people from being hired in the future.

Anyone who "advocates, solicits or promotes homosexual acts" would also be fired.

Backers of the initiative claim they already have 520,000 signatures on petitions, with only 312,404 required by state law to get it on the ballot in November.

TERROR

If this initiative passes people could be fired just for participating in a gay rights demonstration since that would be construed as "advocating homosexuality."

At the very least all gays working for the California public school system would be subject to a reign of terror and blackmail. Anyone could get you fired just by telling the school system you are gay.

The right wing bigots who are organizing this drive are no more likely to stop at firing gays than they were to stop with repealing gay rights laws.

Next they may start trying to fire women who have had abortions or people with "subversive" ideas.

—S.B.

Racism blocks housing in Detroit suburb

DETROIT—Three more city commissioners of a nearby suburb were recently recalled from office because they supported a proposal to build subsidized housing for the elderly and low income families in wealthy Birmingham.

The three commissioners were recalled May 8 in a special election. Three other city commissioners were defeated April 3, the day the proposal they supported was voted down.

Recall leader Nancy Elby called the victory "a tribute to the system. It's a great victory for democracy. It shows that when officials put their will above the will of the people, the people will respond."

Yes, it's a tribute to the system—not of democracy, but of racism and scare tactics used in the campaign to defeat the proposal.

Mrs. Dropiewski, a supporter of low income housing in Birmingham summed it up like this: "The real losers are the elderly and the poor people of the city."

While the elderly search for decent, inexpensive housing else-

where, Birmingham residents will continue to enjoy their \$80,000 homes undisturbed by Black and white working people from Detroit seven miles away.

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Trends In Auto Workers' Elections

by Paul Broz

LOCAL UNION elections continued last week in the United Auto Workers.

In many locals independents and traditional "out group" slates have

overturned incumbents. According to one source, in Chrysler-based locals, so far 22 out of 43 incumbent local presidents have been thrown out, with more elections left to go. Auto workers want change. They are generally dissatisfied with their

union leadership, but the independents and "outs" who are winning are no better than the people they replaced.

Although workers want change, they are not yet taking the big step of replacing more conservative

groups with organized militant caucuses.

MILITANTS LOSE

Two militant caucuses in Detroit, the Watchdog Team in Local 212

(Chrysler's Eight Mile Stamping), and the Progressive Caucus in Local 869 (Warren Stamping, also a Chrysler plant), did not do as well as hoped.

Only one member of the Watchdog Team, Jim Salczynski, running for Executive Board Member-at-Large, won. Three other candidates for committeeman were narrowly defeated, including incumbent John Ware.

They faced opposition both from the ruling Green Slate and the company. The company harassed Watchdog Team supporters and the union made it difficult for Ware to process grievances.

Two members of the Progressive Caucus in Local 869, George Brooks, running for committeeman, and "Doc" Cornelius, running for Sgt. at Arms are in run-offs. But Dave McCullough, incumbent vice-president, who this time was running for committeeman, lost by about 150 out of 550 votes.

Black representation was the major issue in the election, and McCullough is white.

DETROIT FORGE

At Local 47, Chrysler's Detroit Forge, the Coalition took on the past administration for ripping off the local's treasury with lost time vouchers. The old president, Evans Ray, did not even make the run-offs, but the Coalition-endorsed candidate, Scotty Creech, did not win either.

A member of the coalition, Don Quenneville, running for vice-president was in a run-off, as were other Coalition-endorsed candidates. Several won.

Elsewhere, a well-known union activist, Wendy Weinberg, running independently in Local 235 (Chevrolet's Gear and Axle) won the position of Educational Director, without a run-off, receiving more than 1600 votes out of about 3000 cast.

Still undecided is the election in Local 51 (Chrysler's Mound Road Engine and Lynch Road Assembly) where the United Coalition has eight out of ten candidates in the run-offs this week.

A group within the skilled trades, the independent Skilled Trades Council won 15 out of 17 positions in the Tool and Die Unit at Ford's River Rouge complex in Detroit. Previously they had held five positions.

Amid victories and defeats the struggle still goes on. Over the next few years, militants will still be building support on the shop floor, raising issues for debate, and challenging existing union leadership.

Building a strong union will be a long, hard fight, but it's a job that's got to be done.



UAW Local 51 members voting in the first round of their elections last month.

Labor Law Reform: Senate May Drop Anti-Wildcat Clause

by Jim Woodward

OPPONENTS of the labor law reform bill now in the Senate have mapped two strategies to defeat it. First, the filibuster, now in effect. If that fails, they plan to amend it to death.

Some 500-1000 amendments are expected to be offered, each of which could take the Senate several hours to deal with.

One amendment, however, may be taking shape which could rid the bill of its one anti-labor provision.

That provision is called Section 13 in the Senate version. It would allow an employer to get an injunction against a strike that has not been authorized by the union.

The provision was first introduced in the House by Illinois Republican John Erlenborn, who stated that it was aimed at stopping wildcat strikes in the coalfields.

Sponsors hoped that it could be used against "stranger picketing," where UMW members from one mine picket another to spread the strike.

According to Washington sources, a draft of the bill was written by the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. BCOA President Joseph Brennan testified for his version at a Senate hearing in September.

UMW BREAKS SILENCE

Curiously, the West Virginia Coal Association and the BCOA have now come out against Section 13. So has the United Mine Workers union.

When the labor law reform bill was being debated in the House, the UMW was quiet about this anti-labor provision, although UMW lawyers were alerted to it. In part,

the union's silence reflected its embattled leadership's pre-occupation with other matters.

More significant, however, may have been the leadership's hostility to wildcat strikes. The union leadership has not been able to control wildcats, so they may have quietly decided to watch the government give it a try.

For whatever reasons, the UMW has now announced its opposition to Section 13.

A union official explained to the Charleston Gazette: "It's supposedly going to stop wildcat strikes. But this will cause them to spread further and faster than ever before."

He noted that what caused past wildcats to spread was "the companies going to court."

INEFFECTIVE?

For its part, the West Virginia Coal Association has decided that Section 13 "would render wildcat strikes in the coal industry virtually immune from any effective legal action."

An Association statement said: "Under the bill as written, if a labor organization initiated, authorized or ratified a strike, the strike would be immunized against injunctive relief even though the strike is in violation of a contract promise to settle the dispute causing the strike by arbitration."

The employers feel that any strike vote taken by a local union (a common occurrence) would constitute "authorization."

A BCOA spokesman told Workers' Power that his organization agrees with the West Virginia employers' group. He said that although the BCOA had argued for an anti-wildcat clause in the bill, "what came out [of the Senate committee] was not acceptable to us."

This unanimous opposition to Section 13 has prompted at least one influential Senator to consider dropping the provision. Senator Jennings Randolph, a West Virginia Democrat and member of the Human Resources Committee which approved the bill, plans to discuss the matter with committee chairman Harrison Williams soon.

Tom Altmeyer, an aide to



Federal court interference has always angered miners. Now a proposal to outlaw wildcat strikes may be shelved by the Senate.

Stearns Benefit Raises \$600

About 100 members and supporters of the United Mine Workers attended a dance in Pt. Pleasant, W. Va. to raise money for striking miners in Stearns, Kentucky May 27. Sponsored by the UMW Women's Club, the party raised about \$600 for these miners, who have been on strike for nearly two years.

At the party, a representative of the Stearns strikers spoke. Those attending included miners from five states who met earlier in the day to work on plans for a special UMW Convention. The group hopes to force a special union convention as a step towards ousting UMW President Arnold Miller.

According to Don Nunley, an organizer of this campaign, representatives came from Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Ohio.

Pay Up Or Starve, Bankers Tell Peru

by Marilyn Danton

IF YOU woke up one morning and found that a gallon of milk cost \$2.50, a gallon of gas \$1.50 and bus fare \$1.00, all because of orders imposed by foreign bankers, what would you do?

Last week Peruvian workers shut down the nation for 48 hours in a general strike against starvation.

The strikers, led by Peru's unions, demanded that the military government of Morales Bermudez roll back recently imposed price increases ranging from 30% to 120% on milk, bread, cooking oil, gasoline and transit fares.

Even before these price increases, Peru's general inflation rate was running near 80%.

The government refused to cancel the increases, declared the strike illegal, put the nation under martial law and postponed the first scheduled elections in 10 years for two weeks.

The elections will now take place the second week of June, while the country is under a curfew.

Bermudez came to power in 1975 after a coup tossed out President Juan Velasco. Velasco became president in 1968 in a military coup with left-wing rhetoric, including the slogan of "neither communistic nor capitalistic."

Major industry was nationalized, including the two major corporations: Cerro and International Petroleum, both owned by U.S. multi-national outfits.

Bermudez planned to shift the politics of the government toward the right.

AUSTERITY OR BANKRUPTCY

But the real culprit is the stranglehold of U.S. imperialism.

The imposed price increases are part of the austerity castures required by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a stabilization program.

The Peruvian government was forced to go along with these measures or face bankruptcy within



Peruvian workers struck a few years ago against sudden, massive price increases. The scene above is from the industrial center of Vitarte. Now they have been forced on strike again. The rightward-moving Peruvian military government has slashed price subsidies and instituted increases that will drive people to the point of starvation. One newspaper account said that women were "seen crying in the grocery stores" the day the increases went into effect. Similar huge price increases and violent strikes have occurred in other countries, such as Egypt, where international bankers demand that the people go hungry so loans can be repaid on time.

six months.

Peru owes other countries, primarily the U.S. and U.S.-owned banks, a debt of \$5.5 billion. It needs a loan of \$260 million to pay interest on the debts.

The banks refused the loan until the IMF signals that Peru has implemented the austerity measures.

The situation in Peru is not unique. Less developed countries—like Peru—must earn their money through the sale of raw materials on the world market.

With the money earned, they buy imported manufactured goods at inflated prices. But, since they rarely earn enough money to pay for the imports, they run into debt and must borrow.

The banks they borrow from are—you guessed it—the same banks of the developed countries to

whom they owe the money.

Once money is borrowed, there is interest to pay as well. The debt gets greater and greater.

Eventually the banks demand assurances that their money will be repaid—and require austerity measures like those imposed on Peru—in order to loan money to pay the interest on other debts. The hole gets deeper and deeper.

WORKERS PAY

The people forced to pay for all this are the workers, peasants and poor—and if the government in power won't force the population pay the price of imperialism, the U.S.-controlled banks will make sure a government comes to power that will—either through an economic blockade, the CIA, or both.

This is exactly what happened in

Chile in 1973. Once the austerity measures are imposed, then the loans and aid come rolling in, the local capitalists prosper, the international capitalists prosper, the working class and peasants literally starve.

These are the wages of imperialism. And Peru will be no different. The Carter Administration, for all its rhetoric about human rights, is using the IMF to deprive Peruvian workers of the right to eat.

In all likelihood elections in Peru will take place in June. But this government will not last long.

Unless the working class can take the offensive, the next government will probably be a right wing military government on the order of Chile's Pinochet. It will outlaw trade unions and political organizations and continue to be the junior partner of imperialism. □

BRAZIL:

THE LARGEST, most important working class in Latin America is on the move after ten years of nearly total repression.

Auto workers in Brazil—at Ford, Chrysler, Volkswagen and other corporations—began a strike movement three weeks ago for 20% wage increases.

That increase would bring the highest-paid Brazilian auto workers to about \$450 a month.

All strikes in Brazil are illegal under the laws of the military government. Some of the employers, however, have found it more convenient to negotiate with workers' representatives than to lose more production.

Low wages, high profits and foreign investment are the key to the "stability" of the Brazilian dictatorship.

A victory for sections of the auto workers is sure to be followed by a great increase in the activity and confidence of the Brazilian working class. □

Hugo Blanco Emergency Appeal



THE PERUVIAN government has deported the internationally known revolutionary socialist Hugo Blanco and ten to twelve leaders of the recent general strike to Argentina where they are apparently being held in a military prison camp.

Others deported include Humberto Belmonte, Ricardo Napoli and Ricardo Lets, who are leading members of left-wing Peruvian organizations, as well as Alfonso Dorria, editor of the daily, El Tiempo.

The strike leaders were secretly put on a Peruvian military plane on the night of Wednesday May 24 and flown to Northern Argentina.

The Swedish government has inquired after the welfare of the Peruvians and been told only that there are no charges against them. Swedish newspapers have reported that they are in an Argentine military prison camp.

No one has heard from Blanco or any of the others since they were deported from Peru. □

Hugo Blanco's wife phoned the U.S. Latin America Defense Committee to express concern over the prisoners' safety.

The U.S.L.A. Defense Committee has asked that telegrams be sent to the Argentine government, saying that the government of Argentina is responsible for the safety of Hugo Blanco and the others, and demanding they be given safe passage to the country of their choice.

Send telegrams to: Jorge Videla [President of Argentina], Caso Rosada, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Copies of telegrams should be sent to: USLA Defense Committee, 853 Broadway, Suite 414, NYC, New York, 10003.

Company To Sue Fired Strikers For \$250,000

by Jim Woodward

Earl Evans, Sr., known as "Drifter" to his co-workers, is 41 years old, has a wife and three kids, and can tell you without stopping to recollect that he joined the Teamsters Union on May 22, 1958.

The company he worked for up until mid-April recently announced its intention to file a quarter million dollar damage suit against Evans and seven others, a move that could cost them their homes and whatever savings they have.

What did these eight Teamsters, employees of Cooper-Jarrett, do to

merit such drastic treatment? Rob the company safe? Set up a mob-style extortion racket? Or maybe even engage in phony double-billing for their services, like many trucking companies have been caught doing?

THREE DAY WALKOUT

No, these Teamsters, along with about 300 fellow employees at the company's West Middlesex, Pa. terminal, simply got tired of deteriorating working conditions, harassment, and general inhuman treatment, and walked off their

jobs in protest.

The frustration had been felt most strongly by the road drivers, whom their terminal manager Les Linhart has the habit of calling "only one step above a monkey."

Linhart will make a driver miss a day's work to go to Pittsburgh for a grievance hearing he knows the company will lose, rather than settling it at the terminal.

Cooper-Jarrett employees feel they've gotten little help from higher-ups in the Teamsters Union, and that their local union's hands are tied by Joint Council 40. "We've been losing 80-90% of our grievances at the Joint Council

level," Evans notes.

And then there's the question of Sunday work. "When I went there about two years ago," Evans says, "I was off on Sundays. Boy, it just went downhill since then."

The last straw came when Linhart changed the bid runs around and knocked out yet some more Sundays off, making them weekdays off instead.

When the local union complained about the schedule changes Linhart refused to negotiate, even though the contract says he is supposed to. He just flatly said take it or leave it, Evans recalled.

The workers decided not to take

it any longer and shut down the terminal for three days.

FIRED AND SUED

Quickly a judge stepped in with an injunction. The International Union sent in its organizer, Joe Burkhardt, to end the strike.

"The International come in and scared the older guys about the companies folding and selling out," says Evans. "This guy Joe Burkhardt, he was preaching this \$4 and \$5 an hour stuff with no retirement, and it just scared the [older] guys."

When the strike ended, the company fired 18 workers, and suspended many others for 30 days. The disciplinary action extended to a retiree who was in Florida, and a worker in critical condition in the hospital.

The firings were eventually cut back to eight, but the company saw no reason to stop with just firing them. The eight got telegrams announcing the company's intention of taking them to court to recover all the revenue lost during the wildcat. It's said that will come to more than \$30,000 each, although the suit has not yet been filed.

If the company can persuade a judge to rule in its favor, the case could be extremely important.

A labor lawyer familiar with the case explained: "This was something that the employers used to do back before the First World War."

"But for the last 60 years, it's been considered outlawed."

"But recently there have been a number of lower court decisions making it possible for employers to collect money from unions which fail to do everything possible to bring a wildcat strike to an end."

UNION "DISCIPLINE"

If the company is serious about this suit, the lawyer continued, "it would appear that they figure, well, in this particular case they can't go after the union since the union has done everything possible to discipline the strikers, and therefore they'll take a shot at going after the individuals."

Not only did the union do everything in its power to end the strike promptly, it has already processed—and in record time denied—the grievances filed by the fired workers.

"They handled that grievance in a matter of days," Earl Evans explained, while other grievances have taken "as high as 18 or 19 months."

The fired workers have gotten an attorney with the help of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), and are also pursuing their case before the National Labor Relations Board.

Their position is that since the company refused to bargain over the bid changes as required by the contract, the strike was an unfair labor practice strike and the workers' jobs are protected.

An NLRB decision may come as early as June 15, when the Board will also hear other cases of refusal to bargain against Cooper-Jarrett.

Meanwhile, terminal manager Les Linhart has been promoted to Vice President, and shipped off to the company's New Jersey headquarters.

Dominican democracy: just don't touch the rich

by Sandy Boyer

When the returns from the Dominican Republic's Presidential election began to show the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party way ahead, Dominican military leaders got very worried.

The Dominican Revolutionary Party, which actually isn't much more revolutionary than Jimmy Carter, had promised to do away with corruption if it won.

And corruption is something the Dominican Generals know a lot about.

YACHTS, CASINOS

The only way you get to be a general in the Dominican Army is through family, friendship, or business connections. And being a general is very good business indeed.

Lieutenant General Juan Beauchamps Javier, the Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, owns a \$300,000 yacht. The Commander of the national police, Major General Neit Nivar Siejas, is part owner of a major hotel and gambling casino in Santo Domingo, the Dominican capital.

You don't buy \$300,000 yachts or gambling casinos on a military salary. Not even a General's salary.

The Dominican Revolutionary Party was also talking about land reform. Since the generals and their friends and family own most of whatever land in the Dominican Republic that American corporations don't own, they thought land reform was almost as bad as getting rid of corruption.

The Generals' first move was to seize the polling places and stop the vote counting. Apparently they were going to stuff the ballot boxes and proclaim the incumbent President Joaquin Balaguer the winner.

This was a little too blatant for the Carter Administration. It wasn't about to let the Dominican Generals make a joke out of all Carter's fine talk about human rights and democracy in Latin America.

So the U.S. hurriedly announced that if the election was stolen there



Dominican democracy, 1965: United States marines invaded the country to keep a mild reform party from taking power. In 1978, the United States decided to let the election results go through—after the reform party pledged not to carry out any reforms.

would be no more foreign aid for the Dominican Republic. (Never mind the fact that the right-wing government was in power because the United States invaded the Dominican Republic in 1965.)

DEAL

At this point some of the leaders of Dominican big business quietly worked out a deal.

The generals would allow the Dominican Revolutionary Party candidate, Antonio Guzman, a wealthy land owner, to take office.

In return Guzman promised not to do anything that might upset the generals or their friends.

To prove his sincerity Guzman started getting rid of everyone in the Democratic Revolutionary Party who might possibly take their election promises seriously. Pena

Gomez, the Executive Secretary of the Party, was fired for being too left-wing.

For the time being everybody is happy. The generals have their graft. Guzman gets to be President. Jimmy Carter looks good.

Everybody's happy—except the Dominican people. Under their newly elected regime, they have the same military and business power brokers as before. □

CALIFORNIA'S PRO PACIFIC TELEPHONE \$130 MILLION TAX

by Margaret James

Californians, like working people everywhere, are fed up with ever escalating property taxes. This week they will get an opportunity to vote for property tax reform in the most hotly debated proposition in a generation.

Ironically, a vote for Proposition 13, lowering property taxes by 57%, could result in drastic cuts in social services, layoffs of up to 100,000 public employees, and general economic chaos in the state.

Proposition 13 was initiated by ultra-conservative Howard Jarvis, who is head of the Los Angeles Apartment House Owners Association.

The main provisions of Proposition 13 are:

- An across-the-board cut in property taxes. Property taxes for individual homeowners, large and small landlords, and industry would be rolled back to 1% of the 1975-76 assessed value of the property.

- Future increases would be limited to 2% a year as long as the property didn't change hands.

- A limit on the future ability to raise taxes. A two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature would be needed to raise state taxes, and two-thirds of all registered voters would have to approve

any future local tax hike.

- There is no relief for renters and no provisions requiring landlords to pass any of their savings on to their tenants.

- Statewide this would result in a 57% cut in property taxes.

This means a loss of \$7.8 billion to those agencies funded by property taxes—most notably public schools and other locally funded services—fire, police, health clinics, city and regional parks, zoos, and libraries.

- It will also mean laying off tens of thousands of public employees who now provide these services.

ALTERNATIVE

The Democratic politicians, who have not been able to pass a long overdue tax reform measure, panicked when the Jarvis-Gann Initiative got on the ballot. After months of debate they passed Senate Bill 1, a tax reform bill, and put Proposition 8 on the ballot to implement it.

Proposition 8 is better than Proposition 13. Although it has severe weaknesses, it would ease the tax burden on homeowners and still allow for the continuation of public services.

The main provision of Proposition 8 is to allow individual homeowners to be taxed at a lower property tax rate than commercial property owners or business.

This proposal is better than Jarvis-Gann because it provides relief for homeowners, but not for business, and will not result in loss of services or jobs.

Its major drawback is that it is a stopgap measure which relies on the surplus in the state budget to maintain these services. It does not include an alternative progressive tax system for the future.

Once the surplus is gone, then what?

One and a half million Californians signed the petition to put proposition 13 on the ballot. And even now, after the irresponsible nature of the measure has been widely publicized, the most recent polls show that 46% of voters favor Jarvis-Gann while 39% oppose it.

Why are Californians willing to take such a drastic step? The fact is, and quite justifiably, people have had it. Property taxes have risen phenomenally as speculation has inflated housing values sky-high.

Many homes have tripled or quadrupled in value in the last five years. As 1978 assessed values came out in Los Angeles county last week, some home owners were shocked to see their taxes increase 100%—or even 1000%!

Older people and others on fixed incomes can scarcely afford to keep houses they bought years ago. Many are forced to move.

And while taxes skyrocket, the politicians in Sacramento, the state capital, did nothing. To top it off, there is presently a \$3.63 billion surplus in the state treasury.

NO RELIEF

It is easy to see why millions of Californians are ready to vote for an initiative which promises them a 57% cut in property taxes. But unfortunately Proposition 13 does

not spell relief for the 60% of the population that rent or lease property, or for millions more who are homeowners.

If Proposition 13 passes, Standard Oil of California will save \$13 million annually. Lockheed's taxes will be reduced by \$9.5 million. And Pacific Telephone, the state biggest property owner, will save \$130 million.

Estimates are that 65% of the benefits of Proposition 13 will go to business and commercial property owners.

All in all business stands to gain

If Proposition 13 passes, Standard Oil of California will save \$13 million annually. Lockheed's taxes will be reduced by \$9.5 million. And Pacific Telephone, the state's biggest property owner, will save \$130 million.

\$4 billion in property tax relief. Business is clearly the big winner with Jarvis-Gann.

The individual homeowner whose home is valued at \$50,000 (an average home value in California) will save \$600 annually. This is substantial, but in reality, losses in services will far outweigh these savings. Eventually it will be working people that will have to pay to get those services back.

Already cities are projecting how they will adjust for the revenue loss if Proposition 13 passes. In San Francisco proposals include laying off 5000 employees, raising public transportation fares from 25c to 75c, cutting fire and police budgets by one-third, cutting the library budget by 80%, and cutting all funding for the zoo and city golf courses.

Public schools receive 40-65% of their funding from property taxes. In Los Angeles, the passage of the proposition threatens to layoff half of the teachers.

These losses will be felt by working people, not the rich who pay for their own books, belong to private clubs, send their kids to private schools and don't use public transportation.

Proponents of Proposition 13 say that plans like San Francisco's are just scare tactics and some way will be found to maintain services.

Undoubtedly some way will be found if Jarvis-Gann passes. But working people will pay in one form or another—higher state sales tax, higher income taxes, cigarette taxes, liquor taxes. The original \$600 saved through the Proposition will quickly disappear.

WHO'S TO BLAME?

The property tax crisis has been obvious for years. Neither the Republican nor Democratic administrations have done anything about it.

No one really expected the Republicans to do anything. But what about the Democrats? Aren't they supposed to represent working people? Once again the Democrats have shown their true colors.

The only way to give tax relief to working people and maintain services is to institute a steeply graduated income tax and high



Howard Jarvis, co-author of Proposition 13, is a retired millionaire manufacturer and head of the Los Angeles Apartment House Owners Association. He is also an ultra-conservative who has close ties with the John Birch Society. When asked about possible severe cutbacks and layoffs, Jarvis responds, "I don't give a damn."

Public education, according to Jarvis, is "one of the biggest Mafia rackets in this country." The property tax proposition is only one plank in Jarvis's program to help California business.

He and Paul Gann, his co-sponsor for Proposition 13 and a former real estate salesman, are mapping out future campaigns. Their next target is a proposition to freeze the progressive income tax which Jarvis calls "abusive, unfair, and unequal." They hope their initiatives will serve as models for ultra-conservatives in other states.

With friends like this, working people who pay most of the taxes don't need any enemies. □

AMERICA'S TAX WHO

by Marilyn Danton

ON MAY 5 all of us taxpayers finished working for the government. It took an average wage or salary earner from January 1 to May 6 to pay federal, state and local taxes—two days longer than it did in 1977.

We've all heard stories about Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan—millionaires who've had tax free years. And Ford Motor Company, one of the largest corporations in the world has had its tax free years.

But did you know that 1.4% of the taxpayers—those who make over \$50,000 a year—reap 31% of the tax benefits for individuals?

For these deductions, including everything from medical expenses to three martini lunches to capital gains, the U.S. treasury loses \$84 billion annually.

There are 69 tax breaks or benefits in all, but few are open to

the 72% of the tax paying population who make under \$15,000 a year.

ROOTS OF REVOLT

Taxes take the biggest bite out of the family budget. Thirty-four percent of a worker's earnings go to pay taxes. That's two hours and forty-five minutes out of each eight hour day.

Inflation—again approaching 10% annually—only adds to the tax burden by pushing earnings into a higher income tax bracket.

In response to the ever increasing taxes—on income, purchases, property; by local, state and federal governments—millions of middle and working class taxpayers are rebelling.

School millage increases which must be approved by voters have regularly gone down to defeat for

the past ten years. But today the revolt is spreading to all forms of taxes.

An organization called the National Tax Limitation Committee, Incorporated plans to push for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would limit federal spending.

This spring Tennessee added a moderate tax limitation provision to its constitution.

In Michigan state legislators proposed a bill to limit state taxes. When it was defeated, Taxpayers United for Tax Limitation began organizing a petition drive to put the proposal on the November ballot. Similar drives are going on in South Dakota, Colorado, Idaho,

POSITION 13 - IE'S BREAK

NOTICE OF POSSIBLE CLOSURE:
If Proposition 13 (Jarvis-Gann) is adopted at the June 6, 1978 election, the
Oakland City budget will require that this facility be closed.

THE ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED.

CITY OF OAKLAND

ROCKRIDGE
BRANCH
LIBRARY

corporate taxes.
But the 1980 Presidential hopeful Jerry Brown and other Democratic politicians have not been willing to do this. They too have the interests of big business in mind. Even now, in the face of this crisis, they are still protecting big business. Proposition 8 maintains present property tax levels for business and commercial property owners. It states that their taxes cannot be raised to make up the difference from lowering taxes for individual homeowners. It relies on the present surplus to be able to maintain services.

That is why the liberal wing of big business in the state (including A.W. Clausen, Chief Executive Officer of Bank of America) supports Proposition 8 over 13.

Fearing economic chaos if Proposition 13 passes they can stomach the liberal alternative—Proposition 8. Their taxes will not go up and economic stability will be maintained.

Business knows the truth—that when the present surplus is used up the Democrats as well as the Republicans will protect their interests.

All the politicians will turn to other taxes on working people to finance essential programs.

Proposition 13 is a thinly disguised boon for business and a trap for the average homeowner and renter.

Proposition 8 is a better alternative which temporarily gives relief to individual homeowners and not to big business, while maintaining services and jobs.

But its relief is very temporary. If it passes, working people will still have to fight for more progressive taxation which will permanently shift the tax burden off of us and on to the wealthy and the corporations. □



Los Angeles home owners in support of Proposition 13. Ostley is the Los Angeles tax assessor. Property taxes have quadrupled in the past five years for many homeowners. But Proposition 13 will only save the average homeowner \$600.00 while forcing massive cutbacks in public education, libraries and recreation.

The Tax Cut That Wasn't

FOR THE PAST YEAR, Carter has promised tax reform and an across-the-board cut in taxes to provide tax relief and stimulate the economy.

Last April Federal Reserve Board Chairman William Miller began urging Carter to postpone the cut from October 1978 to January 1979.

A three-month delay in the cut would reduce the budget deficit by \$9 billion and provide an example in fighting inflation, according to Miller.

He added: "In the face of rising inflation, the degree of stimulus should be reduced."

Michael Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury speaking at a news conference in support of Carter's tax program defended the proposal. Blumenthal argued that "only the good performance of the economy will allow us to meet our goals," and that the tax cut is necessary to that performance.

GOING, GOING, GONE?

Now, it appears that the administration has given in. The cut will be reduced from \$25 billion to \$20 billion, and will not go into effect until January.

Only \$17 billion of the original \$25 billion was to go to individuals. And, at best that would only offset the recent increase in social security taxes for most taxpayers. Now, who knows?

When Jimmy Carter took office in January 1977 he promised a tax rebate of \$50.00. Three weeks before the rebate was scheduled to come off, Carter's economic advisors persuaded him to drop it.

Too inflationary, we were told. There was no rebate.

If that pattern holds, come December Carter will give us his idea of a Christmas present—no tax cut, to save us all from the woes of inflation. □

—M. D.

SYSTEM - WHO PAYS, WINS...WHO LOSES

Arizona, Connecticut and Oregon. And in California the Jarvis-Gann proposition—if passed—would cut property taxes by 57% and send the state into economic chaos (see accompanying article).

WHO'LL GET CUT?

There is no doubt that for most of us who earn our living by working for someone else, or have fixed incomes—taxes are simply outrageous.

According to Roy Ash, former Director of the Budget, taxes would take 80% of all personal income by the year 2000 if government spending continued to grow at its current rate.

Yet most tax limitation initiatives and proposals only cut taxes, and do not provide for alternative means of funding the programs taxes pay for—like schools, libraries, recreational facilities on the local level, and social security, unemployment and federal grants to cities on the national level.

As tax limitations pass, these social services face potentially serious cutbacks which affect working people, minorities and the poor who can't afford private schools and expensive resorts.

Yet it is the wealthy and the corporations who benefit from the current tax structure. Oil producers from Exxon to the smallest independent, get 22% of their

profits exempted from taxation—as well as tax credits for taxes paid to foreign governments for taking their oil.

MORE OF THE SAME

Carter's tax cut, if it ever goes through, would give \$7 billion to corporations in an attempt to create investment incentives.

Special corporate tax benefits already cost the treasury \$28 billion a year in lost revenues.

To add insult to injury, it is the poor and minorities who can't find jobs and are forced to live on welfare and food stamps who get the blame for increased taxes.

But these programs along with

health care and aid to education, make up only 25% of the federal budget, about equal to military spending—the single biggest slice of the budget pie.

If the corporations and the wealthy paid their share, taxes for working people could be cut with no cutbacks in social services. But, if these same individuals who own and control the wealth of this country could provide decent jobs and living conditions for all, then taxes could be lowered considerably.

Without serious tax reform that shifts the burden from the working man and woman to the capitalists and their corporations, we can expect more of the same. □

Speaking Out

What We Think

TALKING PEACE, PLANNING WAR

Suddenly, a number of governments and political leaders have begun making speeches about the threat of war.

Jimmy Carter, at a NATO anniversary meeting, called for tough western action against Russian and Cuban influence in Africa. He said this influence is "preventing nations in Africa from determining their own future." This is a nice statement from an American President who wants Congress to lift restrictions, so that he can aid attempts to overthrow the government of Angola.

But the most remarkable statement was made at the United Nations General Assembly conference on world disarmament:

"The Soviet Union is increasing its military threat to Western Europe, striving to expand its influence in the Middle East and carrying out a series of military adventures in Africa. . . . It is the most dangerous source of a new world war and is sure to be its chief instigator."

Such a statement might have been dredged up from a speech by John Foster Dulles or J. Edgar Hoover a generation ago. Remarkably enough, however, it was made by the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Huang Hua.

DEMANDING WESTERN MILITARY BUILD-UP

It is certainly not the first time the Chinese government has denounced Russia as the "most dangerous" of the two imperialist superpowers. But it probably is the first time, in a major international forum, that the Chinese bureaucracy openly demanded greater military build-ups by the west: "There are some people in the west today who are cowed

by Soviet military threats and who are afraid of war, or who indulge in a false sense of security and deny the existence of a serious war danger.

"Politically, they seek peaceful cooperation. . . . Militarily, they seek a respite through compromises and concessions. They even dream of averting the danger threatening themselves by sacrificing the security of others."

The Chinese leadership's out-and-out call for a military build-up by the west against Russia is, significantly, exactly the direction that American policy is moving. This is why the Chinese statement received front-page, favorable publicity in the U.S. media. Meanwhile, in a speech in Mississippi, powerful Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd called for producing the neutron bomb.

But let's see how the oppressed peoples of the world might view the question of which imperialist power represents the "greatest threat of war," or the greater oppression.

IMPERIALIST OPPRESSION, EAST AND WEST

It's easy to see that for the people of Poland, or the Ukraine, or other Eastern European nations, the bureaucracy of the Soviet Union is the oppressor. Since any attempt at political change in Eastern Europe brings Russian tanks rolling in, for them the Soviet Union represents both the threat of war and the denial of freedom.

It's also true that Russian advisors with planes, tanks and several thousand Cuban troops are trying to crush the

people of the African nation of Eritrea, fighting for independence from Ethiopian colonial rule.

But what about the African people of South Africa and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), who are not enslaved by Russian tanks but by white regimes backed by western investments and arms? What about the people of Namibia—over 460 of whom were killed by South Africa's air raid against a school children's refugee camp three weeks ago?

Anyone who says that Russians and Cubans are the "main threat of war" in southern Africa today—whether it be Jimmy Carter, Andrew Young, the President of France or the Chinese Foreign Minister—is actually on the side of white South Africa. They are telling the African masses of South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe to sacrifice their own struggle for the sake of western strategic interests.

According to Jimmy Carter's logic, 35,000 Cuban troops in Africa threaten stability, but \$2 billion of American investments in South Africa, backing apartheid to the hilt, is somehow a force for progress and democracy. This is simply the logic of American imperialism.

The world will only be safe from war when people from Poland and the Ukraine, to Eritrea, to South Africa and Zimbabwe and Namibia, have overthrown their imperialist rulers—and when the workers of Russia, China and America have gotten rid of the imperialist systems that run the world.

Until then, when ruling classes send their representatives to disarmament conferences to discuss preserving peace, it's neutron bombs and new weapons systems and mineral riches they're really talking about. □

As I See It

JUST CALL IT BERT LANCE JR. HIGH

by Elissa Clarke

A seventh grade class in Mill Valley, California has collapsed in a scandal of corruption.

A lesson in government began when the class accused their teacher, George Muldoon, of being too strict. "I said, 'OK, fine, you set up some rules and live by them.'"

The class set up the fictional government of "Amasudatamalie"—a capitalist society. They printed money with a picture of a baby on the \$1 bills, a hippie on the tens, and a skull on the hundreds.

High bidders won the right to operate such concessions as the pencil sharpener, books, wastebaskets, doors. Others had to pay for their use.

The Department of Beautification—the Amasudatamalie police department—issued citations for such crimes as sitting on desks and messing up the room.

"Some people never got arrested," one student noted. "People with money had more power than the president."

The Department of Beautification began keeping files on all the class members and accepted payoffs. The bank president took a tip from Bert Lance and used bank funds to pay other students to do her homework.

But the crime that eventually brought the government down was when one student admitted to counterfeiting more than \$300,000 on the school's duplicating machine.

PARENTS ALWAYS HOPE that they can give their children a better deal in life. Working class parents, sweating in the plants this summer, will be hoping that their children will have more rewarding jobs. Many make great sacrifices so their children can live in a nicer neighborhood, or go to college.

The hope is really that their children will somehow get out of the working class. To be a lawyer, instead of an autoworker.

It's no secret that life is better if you're rich. Rich kids get better schools, better parks, summer camps, music lessons and French lessons, horseback riding, and travel to foreign countries. And dad takes you into the business when you graduate.

In school, our children will be taught that this is the land of opportunity, that you can grow up to be anything in America. . . . even President. . . .

But our children will be taught in decrepit schools, in over-crowded classrooms where being quiet will be equally important to progress in reading.

They will not have the benefits of all the latest teaching

methods. Their Spanish class will not go to Spain. There may not even be enough books to go around.

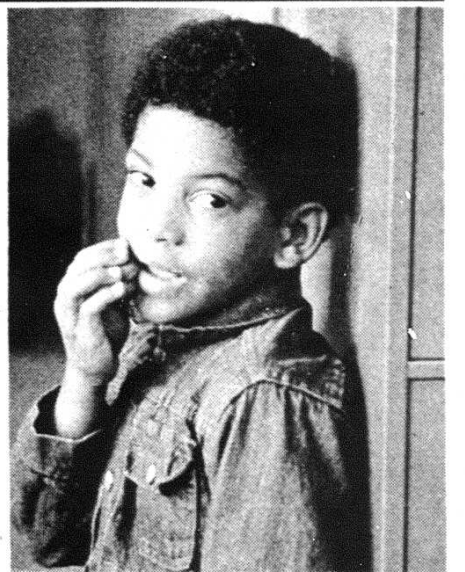
The real thing that our children will learn in school is discipline—to be quiet, to get to class on time, to bring in a note when they are out. Their teachers may have to do more yelling than teaching.

The schools that our children go to are no better than they have to be to raise children who are smart enough to work, but not smart enough to question the system and rise up against it.

LET'S HOPE THAT the citizens of Amasudatamalie learned something. "People with money had more power than the president. . . ."

Let's hope they didn't like the system they created, where those who own the means of production—the pencil sharpeners, the trashcan, even the door—can sit back and get rich while the rest of us sweat just to make enough to survive.

Let's hope that they will help to build a new society. And by the way, if you want your children to learn that no Black person, no woman has ever been president of this great, free society, you better tell them yourself. □



The education you get depends on whether you are rich or poor.

Where We Stand

Workers' Power is the weekly newspaper of the International Socialists. The I.S. and its members work to build a movement for a socialist society: a society controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

Because workers create all the wealth, a new society can be built only when they collectively take control of that wealth and plan how it is produced and distributed.

The present system cannot become socialist through reform.

The existing structures of government—the military, police, courts and legislatures—protect the interests of employers against workers.

The working class needs its own kind of state, based on councils of delegates elected at the rank and file level.

The rank and file of the unions must be organized to defend unions from employer attacks, to organize the unorganized, to make the union effective. Today's union leaders

rarely even begin to do this. The rank and file must organize to return the unions to the members.

The struggle for socialism is worldwide. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against workers of other countries, including racism and protectionism.

We are against the American government's imperialist foreign policies, including its support of racist military regimes in southern Africa.

We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The so-called "socialist" or "communist" states have nothing to do with socialism. They are controlled by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats and must be overthrown by the workers of those countries.

Black and Latin people are oppressed national minorities in the U.S. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their

own future. We support the struggle for Black Liberation and the self-organization of Black people. We also fight for the unity of Black and white workers in a common struggle against this system.

We support women's liberation and full economic, political, and social equality for women. We demand outlawing all forms of discrimination against gay people.

Socialism and liberation can be achieved only by the action of a mass workers' movement. The most militant sections of workers today must be organized to lay the foundations for a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

This is why the International Socialists exists—to create that party. We are open to all those who accept our main principles, and who accept the responsibility of working as a member to achieve them.

Join with us to build a movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world. □

Letters From A Friend

Growing Up Under The Witch Hunt

by Dennis Stovall

First in a series of occasional letters

Dear I,

I MUST BE GETTING OLD, because when you asked about what it was like for socialists and communists during the McCarthy Era, it struck me that at age 24 you weren't even around when it began! I could give you a lot of historical details about what happened to people all over the country, a lot of horror stories, but I learned all that by reading and talking with victims years after. I really need to go into why it was that way, but I'll do it next time I write because this will be long as it is.

What I'm going to do is describe the terror I felt and the effect it had on me for years.

WHEN YOU'RE FIVE years old your parents' politics don't mean anything—except when suddenly your friends aren't allowed to play with you anymore... and you can sense your parents' fear... and you can't understand what is happening... and the bigger kids bully and tease and talk behind your back.

When you're six and you go to school you feel like a freak... and it's frighteningly clear that your family is one-of-a-kind in this small conservative town. Nobody likes what you are... and you don't understand—except that those people who treat you with care and love, your folks, are everybody's enemies, so they are responsible for what's done to you. The confusion, pain and guilt are unbearable.

And one night you overhear your Mom and Dad talking privately. They are discussing who will get the kids when they are taken away.

The witch-hunts are on television. You'd prefer Mighty Mouse, but there is a morbid fascination that draws you to the tube to witness your parents' friends—people you know and like to visit on holidays—being brutalized by their interrogators. Your father has started a cub scout troop in the community. He is kicked out. The PTA does the same to both of them.

You are scared shitless and you hold it all in. "Politics" and "communism" become words you hate and fear. **But because you can't escape, and because no matter how you try to blame your folks, they are the best, most honest people you know—you slowly find ways to fight back.**

But mostly there is no confidence for a strong stand. As the decade rolls on, you get good at avoiding the subject—but it's all a compromise—a constant compromise with the principles you've been taught about how to treat others. Years and years of gears grinding inside.

YOUR DAD'S PLACE BURNS DOWN. It is no accident. Phone calls in the middle of the night and threatening letters (a drawing of the cross-hairs of a rifle scope)—all this becomes daily fare into the 60's.

Somebody works over your Dad and leaves him unconscious in his pickup on a blind railroad corner. He comes to and gets away. There are Wallace stickers on the bumper of the truck, the signature of murderers. A couple of courageous families allow their daughters to date you. After all, what did the kid ever do? But others warned them: people will talk. By then, it was the mid-60's and things were beginning to lighten up.

I WAS 18 BEFORE I had the guts to say, "I'm a socialist. I'm not afraid." I wanted to tell my folks what their courage had meant and even how I had blamed them for so long and how scared I'd been. But it was years before I told them.

When I visit that town now I get stopped on the street by people who want to tell me how deeply they respect my parents, what wonderful and honest people they are. Nothing but love and admiration from the same people who did the dirty work 25 years ago.

It may seem odd, but I've never really felt bitter—it's my home town. Sure there are a few people there for whom I can't imagine enough torture, but most of those people who feared and ostracized us were victims too. They weren't ordinarily mean or vicious. They were ignorant and afraid and they felt powerless over their own lives. It may have taken an age, but I believe we woke some of them up.

BEFORE I CLOSE I want to tell you something that happened long after I left home. I was working construction and had a boss who was about my Dad's age and used to tell stories every lunch break. After a while I figure out that he was at a lot of the same places at the same time as my folks. So I asked him, and he denied ever hearing of them.

A couple months later, while visiting home, I told my parents about this guy. My Dad laughed and said, "I was the witness at his wedding and I was there when he joined the Party."

I thought, that dirty rotten s.o.b., and when I was out of work a few months later I drove 300 miles to find the guy. With a great big grin on my mug and a song in my heart, I walked up to him and said: "Hey, do ya know where there's any work?" He just couldn't seem to think of anything and was ready to walk off when I sweetly added: "By the way, you didn't tell me you knew my folks so well."

Would you believe it—I got to choose the best of three different jobs! That guy is probably still running with his tail between his legs and I hope to hell I scared him a little more. I've got less feeling for him than those people back home who didn't know any better.

THAT'S A LITTLE of what it was like. All you have to do is multiply it to get a feel for the climate in America in that period. Why was it like that, why were thousands of working people like my folks branded and hounded and destroyed? I'll save that for another letter.

In struggle,
Dennis



While many lives were destroyed by McCarthyism, some people built careers from it. Here, the young Richard Nixon holds alleged evidence against "Communist spies" supposedly found in a pumpkin.

Fighting Words

"The capitalist of my own country is my enemy. The socialist of another country is a fellow patriot."

—James Connolly
Irish Revolutionary

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JOIN US!

If you agree with the views express in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, send this form to: **INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.**

Name

Address

Union

KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN - GET THE NAZIS OUT!

by Larry Smith

The struggle to remove the Nazis from their new hate-quarters on the Northwest side of Detroit continues. The daily demonstrations of the last two weeks have ceased, but the presence of Nazis and their attempt to spread their filth and discord is still an issue within the city.

The Brightmoor community of Northwest Detroit continues to say "No" to the Nazis and their so-called right of free speech.

The spontaneous outpouring by Brightmoor has stopped as people are seeking organized ways to put an end to the Nazi menace.

One natural avenue taken by the community was to appeal for help from the political leadership of the city.

The Detroit City Council responded with a disgusting lack of regard for the welfare of the people. Several Council members asked the people and the news media to "ignore" the Nazis and to black out coverage of anti-Nazi events.

The Labor-Community-Interfaith Council Against the Nazis, the group responsible for removing the Nazis from their last hate-quarters on the Southwest side of Detroit, has joined forces with the Brightmoor Business Community Council. The Council plans a campaign to have legislative bodies adopt the 1951 United Nations resolution on genocide, a resolution which has been adopted by most countries except the United States and South Africa.

The Council sees the resolution as an organizing tool for creating an anti-Nazi movement.

UNITING TO FIGHT

Young people, Black and white, are the main participants in the growing anti-Nazi movement in Brightmoor.

When the Nazis first opened their hate-quarters the young were the first to take to the streets in

protest.

The young also suffered from the police harassment of anti-Nazi demonstrators. Scores have been arrested or ticketed by the police.

In the last two weeks over 30 young people, with a core from Redford High School, met to form a new anti-fascist organization called the Anti-Nazi League.

The League is united under three positions:

- Opposition to fascism and fascist-like groups, including Nazis and the Klan.

- Reliance upon the people instead of the state or government for the final solution to getting rid of the Nazis.

- Support for those arrested or ticketed by the police for anti-Nazi activities.

The League will be attempting to educate and organize other young

people on the danger of fascism and Nazism. It is in the process of organizing a defense campaign for those arrested.

Lining up legal and community support for the fighters against fascism will be a major area of work for the League. It is planning anti-Nazi events as a way of organizing and building the anti-Nazi sentiment in the Brightmoor community.



Young white people in Detroit's Brightmoor community are among the many residents who are strongly anti-Nazi.

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

Members of **United Mine Workers District 25** have quietly ratified a new anthracite coal contract, covering nearly 2000 Pennsylvania hard-coal miners. It provides a \$1.10 pay increase over three years and a \$7500 life insurance policy. Pensions remain at \$30 a month.

The **Teamsters Union** has filed for a representation election at **Overnite Transportation Co.** With 5800 employees in 20 states, Overnite is the largest company in a growing non-union sector of the trucking industry. If the company does not use delaying tactics and challenges, an election could be held within 60 days.

Statistics from the Department of Labor are expected to show—sometime within the next month or so—that 50% of all American women have entered the labor force. This is up sharply from 38% in 1960. Over the last ten years, 14 million new jobs have been filled—10 million of them by women. As the cost of the American dream soars, and as more women decide to support themselves, the percentage of women who work will likely continue to climb.

Peterbilt Motors Co., which makes what it likes to call the classiest heavy-duty truck on the roads, has been hit by a \$5 million damage suit. The class action suit charges Peterbilt with discrimination against women and racial minorities in hiring, training, and promotion. Also named in the suit are four unions at the company's Hayward, California plant. The unions were charged because, according to attorney Frank Roesch, they "have allowed the plant to discriminate in violation of the law and the collective bargaining agreement." The suit also asks that Peterbilt establish an affirmative action program.

A federal appeals court has ruled that labor unions can file for voluntary bankruptcy. The case dates back to 1970, when **Teamsters Local 600** in St. Louis struck for 37 days, protesting terms of the newly-negotiated national Master Freight Agreement. Because Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons ordered the local back to work, a court ruled the strike was unauthorized and awarded area trucking companies \$5.8 million in damages. The local could not pay this and filed for bankruptcy. The Motor Carriers Council fought the bankruptcy petition, insisting that either the International union or the local's membership should cough up the money. The employers have indicated they will appeal the latest ruling to the Supreme Court.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: **Workers' Power, Labor Notes, 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 48203. Or phone 313-869-5964.**

it's a damn shame that we have to ask for the ERA.



Letters

ANOTHER VIEW OF 'F-I-S-T'

Dear Workers' Power,

I think Duane Hamm missed quite a few points in his review of F.I.S.T. It's true that parts of the movie are inaccurate and boring, but other parts are excellent.

Generally, the first half of the film is the best. The scenes of life in Cleveland during the Depression, what it was like to work on a non-union dock, the treachery of the bosses, and the problems facing an organizer were very well done.

The scenes of the victory over Consolidated brought a standing ovation from the Detroit audience I saw it with. Many viewers expressed the desire to go and do likewise at their own plants.

Even the second half made the point that the reason the Senate was going after the union was not because it was corrupt, but because it was too powerful. The government would not tolerate any group of workers swinging that much weight. An honest union would have been even more of a threat to them than a crooked one.

Of course, anyone who knows a little labor history can see through the fallacies in the movie.

The most crucial one comes during the Consolidated strike. Here we find Johnny Kovak deciding to hire some "push" from the Mob after the Local has

suffered a defeat at the hands of company strikebreakers.

At the time there is no thought of a partnership between the union and the mob. The gunmen are brought in the same way one might contract with a printer to put out some leaflets.

One must remember that during the 1930's, many workers were sympathetic towards gangsters like John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd. They knew that the banks were ripping off the country, and anyone who knocked over a bank was something of a hero.

In fact, however, there was no need to turn to gangsters just to get a few pick-handles, pistols and firebombs. By 1937 the workers had learned a great deal about what to do when push comes to shove.

During the 1934 Minneapolis strike, the Teamsters even managed to acquire machine guns to protect their headquarters, and they did it without bringing in the Mob.

American workers have often been misled, sold-out, double-crossed and betrayed, but they have rarely been outfought. Even today, many Teamster militants will pack an equalizer to a strike or a union meeting.

The truth is that the Teamsters got involved with the syndicate when they stopped fighting for

the rank and file and started making deals with the freight companies. In other words, when they stopped using "push" and started using "pull."

Neither the movie nor the book make it clear whether Johnny Kovak is ultimately for the union or for himself.

There are plenty of union officers, from steward on up, who feel that they can get more for their members by wheezing and dealing than by organizing and fighting. Many officers feel that if they can get something for the membership, they deserve a little something for themselves as well, and some of the rank and file agree with them.

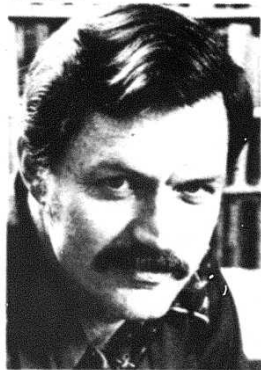
Even today there are plenty of Teamsters who will tell you that even though Himmy Hoffa raked off a lot for himself, he also got as much as he could for the truckers—unlike some officers who steal as much as they can without doing anything for the membership.

The truth is that you can't have it both ways. When you get to the bottom line the union is either with the membership or with the company. Whenever the bureaucrats start talking about the best interests of both, you know you've been sold.

Neil Chacker
Detroit, Michigan

Inside CIA's Secret War

In 1975, months after being defeated in Vietnam, the United States launched a large-scale, secret war in Angola. How that war was planned, and carried out, has just been exposed in an amazing new book.



John Stockwell

In Search of Enemies, a CIA Story. By John Stockwell. W.W. Norton and Co., 1978, 285 pages. \$12.95

by Dan Posen

The contradictions of imperialism come in all shapes, forms and sizes.

Take the Central Intelligence Agency, for example. It has 15,000 full-time employees at its Langley, Va. headquarters alone.

About a third of these work for the "Deputy Directorate of Operations" (DDO), the agency's undercover operational arm.

CIA stations in every country in the world, with operatives working under cover in each American embassy, or as journalists, or a hundred other disguises, are capable of putting an amazing range of operations into deadly effect.

It can and does overthrow governments, sabotage economies, poison or assassinate political leaders, all of it of course in the name of defending democracy and American security.

TIME BOMBS

The problem is that the CIA's "covert operations" programs have to be managed and carried out by real people. And some of those people turn out to be "decent, honest people who never learn to put well-paid bureaucratic careers ahead of what they started out believing in.

And given that the CIA is really all about, every such person within the CIA structure is like a time bomb, waiting to be set off.

One of those human time bombs turned out to be the man who actually ran the CIA's Angola Task Force, John Stockwell.

John Stockwell's personal time

bomb started ticking before Angola, while he was an upcountry CIA field officer in Vietnam.

HEINEKEN

He saw and participated in the so-called evacuation of Vietnam.

He saw CIA field officers, men who had spent the war reading cables with a Heineken beer in one hand and a Vietnamese mistress in the other, split the scene—leaving behind their classified documents and the Vietnamese agents they had recruited. Most of these officers received promotions, if not medals.

The full story of that episode has been exposed by another one of the CIA's human time bombs, Frank Snepp, in his book "Decent Interval."

The final evacuation of Vietnam followed "Operation Phoenix," a program that killed between 20,000 and 40,000 Vietnamese suspected of supporting the National Liberation Front. The manager of this program, William Colby, became CIA Director.

John Stockwell did not fail to notice that at the end of the day, the CIA treated its Vietnamese friends the same way it treated its Vietnamese enemies—as expendable human cannon fodder.

ROTTEN ALLIES

After a brief vacation, the CIA brought Stockwell back to take charge of the CIA's Angola program. That was its big mistake.

Stockwell, after twelve years of service with the Agency, was infected with the idea that secret wars against nationalist movements might not be in the real interests of the American people, after all.

It gave him a new way of looking at his own experiences as the Angola war unfolded.

He went to Angola and saw, up close, the real rottenness of the human material the United States was using to try to block the Angolan national liberation movement, the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). Holden Roberto, the United States' chief Angolan ally, was the leader of a pro-western movement called National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA). In Stockwell's account, Roberto emerges as a combination of equal parts tribal demagogue, military incompetent and plain crook.

The CIA's final payment to Roberto, supposedly to pay expenses for his starving troops who were pillaging the countryside as they retreated, simply disappeared into Roberto's pocket.

Roberto's father-in-law, the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, was an active CIA ally in the Angola war.



Above, MPLA soldiers advancing during Angolan war in late 1975. Below, the CIA's Angolan allies Holden Roberto (left) and Jonas Savimbi (right). The Carter Administration now wants the authority to channel aid to Savimbi to begin a new war in Angola.

Stockwell paints a very different picture of the other pro-western army, UNITA, portraying its leader Jonas Savimbi as a dedicated fighter and real political leader of the Ovimbundu tribe.

Savimbi, however, sold himself to the South African army and tried to ride to power on the back of a South African tank column.

Despite his personal admiration for Savimbi, justified or not, Stockwell makes clear that this alliance with South Africa finished Savimbi as a credible national liberation fighter.

Yet this is the same Savimbi to whom the Carter Administration now wants to resume aid, which has been blocked by Congressional action.

LIES EXPOSED

Other aspects of this book are extremely politically revealing.

For one thing, the United States' public excuse for the Angola war was that it was a defensive reaction to the presence of Cuban troops.

Stockwell's account demonstrates this is a lie. The real purpose of the intervention was to disrupt the MPLA from setting up an independent government as the Portuguese withdrew.

The massive introduction of Cuban troops came later, although months earlier, Stockwell himself was the first to anticipate it would occur—in response to the CIA's secret war.

Another issue of dispute in Angola was that the United States denied it supported or worked in co-operation with the South African invasion.

The South African government claims it acted with the complete knowledge and advance approval of the United States.

Stockwell's evidence indicates clearly that on this point, the South African racists are telling the truth—and the U.S. is lying.



Also, despite official denials, Stockwell shows that President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, a supposed champion of African liberation, received CIA briefings and knowingly allowed arms shipments by the CIA through Zambia.

POLITICAL DECISIONS

What is disappointingly sketchy about this book is any solid information about how the real political decisions on Angola were made.

Contrary to some ideas that the CIA acts without government knowledge, it is clear that the CIA was not operating on its own in Angola.

The National Security Council, the so-called "40 Committee" which helped organize the Chilean coup, and Henry Kissinger were in it up to their necks.

Yet while it was they who made the real decisions, they did so in ways that allowed them to escape responsibility when the mission collapsed in failure.



When one crucial decision needed to be made, Henry Kissinger escaped by rushing off to catch his plane to Peking.

Stockwell apparently is not able to tell us where the basic political decisions were made that put the CIA's operation in motion and led to the deaths of thousands of Angolans. As in Vietnam, the real criminals are off free.

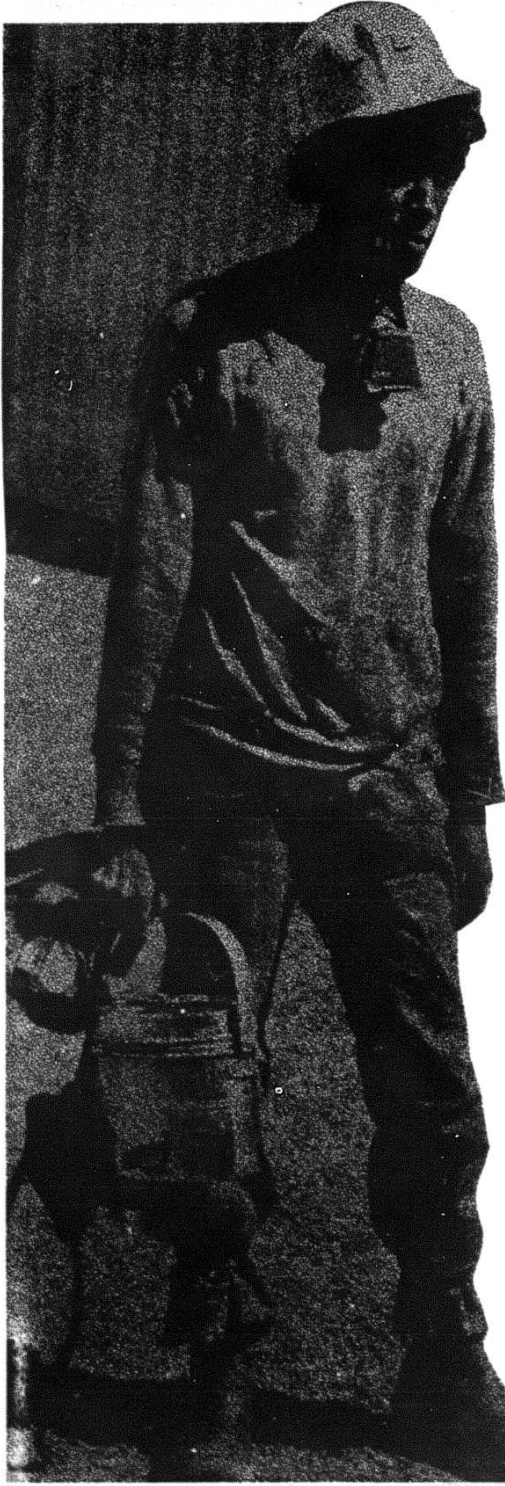
Meanwhile, the CIA and the American government are trying to make it look as if the criminal was John Stockwell. They are trying to sue him, to ruin him financially and prevent anyone from following his example.

In a sense, they are right to do so. In Namibia, in Zimbabwe and even again in Angola, the Carter Administration is attempting to begin a whole new round of manipulation and undercover sabotage of liberation struggles in Africa.

One John Stockwell in their midst is more dangerous to those schemes than a hundred Russian KGB agents. □

Workers' Power

Appalachian Women Demand Jobs In The Mines



Today, 99.8% of all miners are men. But that may be changing.

A coalition of Appalachian women's groups filed a complaint with the federal government on May 11 demanding that the Department of Labor require the coal industry to hire one woman for every three men.

The Coalition asked the federal government to cancel federal contracts with companies that discriminate against women. 153 companies were named in the suit.

BLATANT DISCRIMINATION

Women are determined to get the mining jobs that they need. "The coal industry in Appalachia is the number one industry," Bessie Parker, a member of the United Mine Workers Cumberland Women's Club, told this reporter. "It's the only employer where a woman could make any money."

The UMW Cumberland Women's Club is one of the groups that signed the complaint.

The complaint charged the coal industry with being "one of the most blatantly discriminatory" employers in the country.

Bessie Parker explained that many of the companies named in the suit have already been ordered by the government to hire women.

"For example," Parker said, "U.S. Steel was sued two years ago. They said they would hire women. But they have maybe 15 women in 1100 men hired."

"I just don't think that they're willing to give women the rights they're entitled to. Now—even when they've been told that they have to do it—they're still not going to."

"They think they can get away with it. They've got some pretty slick lawyers."

ONE IN THREE

The coal industry is expected to grow by 45,000 new entry-level jobs a year, every year until 1985, according to a study by the United States Energy Research and Development Administration.

"This presents an excellent opportunity for women and minorities to claim a larger percentage of mining jobs, without displacing present workers or precluding traditional applicants," said Betty Jean Hall.

Hall is director of the Coal Employment Project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the primary author of the complaint.

The Coalition is demanding that women be hired at an accelerated rate until they constitute 20% of the mining work force.

The complaint was sent to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance. Under Executive Order 11246, that office can cancel federal contracts with firms that violate equal employment opportunity laws.

Action by the government could have an impact on half the coal

produced in the United States since the country's largest coal consumer, the Tennessee Valley Authority, is a federal agency.

In fact, the Tennessee Valley Authority was singled out in the complaint because it has not been enforcing an executive order requiring its companies not to discriminate on the basis of sex.

The Coalition also asked that the government require coal companies to advertise in local media

Melba Strong was involved in a similar suit four years ago. In 1974, she filed a class action suit against U.S. Steel.

Although U.S. Steel was not forced to hire Strong ("They said I had an arrest on my record, which I do, but so does half the crew"), they were ordered to cease discrimination against women and hire one out of every three workers a woman—an order they have not carried out.

"I would say definitely—women are going to get into the mines!"

all job openings three days prior to filling the job, and to state in the ads that they must hire one woman for each three men.

Finally, they requested that the government designate the coal industry for a special review, which would mean additional federal supervision of hiring. Last year, the insurance industry was targeted for special review.

INDEPENDENT

The groups active in the suit are very enthusiastic about the possibilities of action. "I would say definitely—women are going to get into the mines!" Melba Strong, a Kentucky woman who signed the suit told this reporter.

"My friends working in the mines love it! They're making some money. They all have families, and it gives them a chance to be independent and support their families, to be whole and complete here, in an area where women have no chance for economic survival.

"This suit can help women, and bring about social change that is really needed."

"If you ever take a stand against the coal companies in this area, you don't ever get a job in an important position," Melba Strong noted.

"Because of the suit, for three years I was black listed. I couldn't get any job at all."

"They just don't like pioneers."

The women in Appalachia are determined to get into the mines, and they are hopeful that this suit will open up hiring.

"Women want to go into the mines to make enough money to support their families," Bessie Parker explained. "Restaurant work around here is less than minimum wage. The hospital is the second largest employer, and it's not a third of the pay in the mines. A woman just can't find work. There's just not no other work."

"A lot of women around here never finished high school, and married real young, like myself for an example. We didn't have skills where you could get an office job."

"I want to have a right to have that job in the mine."

Elissa Clarke

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